

HOUSE REJECTS TORRENS BILL

Refuses to Engage It After a Long Discussion by a Vote of 10 to 28.

MR. MASSIE'S FINE SPEECH

Patron of the Measure Stirs Up Body With His Eloquence.

The House spent practically all of two long sessions yesterday in debating the Torrens land registration bill offered by Mr. Massie, of this city, and then by a vote of 10 to 28 refused to order the measure to its engrossment. While this kills the bill so far as the present session is concerned, its friends are undismayed and Mr. Massie and others declare it will yet become law. The speech of Mr. Massie in closing the discussion in favor of the measure was perhaps the most powerful and eloquent ever heard in the new hall of the House, and as he wended his way toward the door, to a brilliant climax there was prolonged applause.

There were a great many speeches on both sides and the debate was interesting throughout. There was a good deal of cross firing at both sessions and members of the Richmond delegation being divided, took some sharp cracks at one another.

The Senate after a spirited debate passed the Lassetter bill, creating a State convict road force, but did little of interest beyond this. There were many bills in both branches along with petitions for the Mann bill. No measure save those of a local nature can be offered in either branch after today.

THE SENATE.

Lassetter Road Bills Are Again Discussed at Much Length.

New bills, resolutions and Mann law petitions came with the usual rush and the Senate was then engaged in an early discussion of the best means of facilitating the work, slowly but surely congesting upon the calendar. An effort to hold afternoon sessions failed, objection being offered on the ground that it would interfere with the morning session. The committee meetings on which so much depends, by unanimous vote the Senate then agreed to a resolution previously offered by Judge Phlegar of Montgomery, providing that after the consideration of the unfinished business and the special order the Senate should proceed to consider 1. House bills to which amendments have been made and which are not contested, and 2. Senate bills on their second reading, all bills which any Senator might state that he intended to contest, to be passed by the Senate.

Discussion of the Lassetter road bills—the one creating the State convict force—was resumed and continued for about two hours. Among the Senators who spoke were Mr. Lassetter, of Petersburg; Mr. Kezelle, of Rockingham; Mr. Thomas, of Lynchburg; Mr. Echols, of Augusta; Mr. Wickham, of Hanover; Judge Phlegar, of Montgomery; Mr. Shands, of Southampton; Mr. Campbell, of Bedford; Major Lynn, of Loudoun; Mr. Strode, of Amherst; Mr. Roberts, of Middleburg, and some others.

The debate was animated and at times the cross-firing was very hot. There was a sharp tilt between Mr. Strode and Mr. Wickham as to the latter's position with reference to the State aid proposition. Mr. Wickham responding warmly to the Amherst Senator's suggestion that he be opposed to State aid, Judge Phlegar also replied sharply to what he considered an attempt on the part of Mr. Strode to say that all the Senators opposed to the Lassetter bill were fighting the principle of the State aid.

The argument went on, covering much of the ground already gone over in previous references to the Lassetter-Wickham plan. Mr. Roberts spoke briefly, ending with this contribution to the debate, which was the last of the day.

There is a man of Rockingham, late, whose constituents did impatiently wait with outstretched arms and wings of love to wait over macadam roads above. But up stepped Lassetter, like a weasel, and through the crowd of roads dragged Lyon and Kezelle.

The test came on the vote on the Lynn bill, heretofore described, which was offered by the Loudoun Senator, who is opposed to the Lassetter plan, as a substitute for the bill pending. The roll-call on the substitute was as follows:

Ayes—Chapman, Echols, Harman, Holt, Kezelle, Lynn, Niemeyer, Noel, Phlegar, Ravenner, Thomas, Turner—12.

Noes—Anderson, Campbell, Dickinson, Fulton, Garrett, Greer, Gunter, Hobbs, Kerns, Lassetter, Lindsay, Massie, Mann, Patterson, Rice, Roberts, Sadler, Seares, Shackelford, Shands, Sims, St. Clair, Strode, Walker, H. T. Wickham and T. A. Wickham—26.

The Lassetter bill, as amended, was then engrossed and under a suspension of the rules was passed with but four dissenting votes.

Under the tacit agreement made yesterday, the vote on the engrossment of the bill rearranging the judicial circuits in the State was reconsidered, and Mr. Shands, of Southampton, proposed an amendment creating a new circuit, composed of Isle of Wight, Princess Anne and the city of Portsmouth, increasing the number in the State to twenty-eight. No contest arose over the new circuit, the amendment was included, the redistricting bill was engrossed again, and then passed and communicated at once to the House of Delegates.

Judge Nicol Good Baptist.

Arising to a question of personal privilege, Mr. Machen, of Alexandria, referred to the quotation in The Times-Dispatch of his remark that in his circuit the court was so hard pressed that it sat at night, on legal holidays and "occasionally on the Sabbath day on the quiet." This statement, made facetiously, appears to have been taken by some as meaning that in Alexandria cases are called on Sunday and the court sits formally on that day, as on all other days. It was taken for granted that the manifest absurdity of such an assumption would be guard against its creation, but this appears to have been ineffective. Mr. Machen explained that he meant only that in certain rare cases during Saturday night trials the proceedings have extended a few minutes beyond midnight.

"Judge Nicol is too good a Baptist and the lawyers of Alexandria are too pious to hold court on Sundays," he declared.

"May I ask if the pious lawyers of Alexandria turned the clock back on the proceedings extended beyond midnight?" asked Mr. Kezelle, of Rockingham.

"No; we just assumed that the clock was wrong," replied Mr. Machen.

After some further scattering business the Senate session ended. Mr. Shackelford, of Orange, chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, which reported the Machen primary bill adversely made the motion to adjourn.

"Will the Senator yield for a motion," asked Mr. Machen, arising.

"If it does I'll withdraw the motion," said Mr. Machen.

"Very well," said Mr. Shackelford, with evident reluctance.

"My motion," said Mr. Machen, "is to take up out of its order Senate bill 151 to provide for primary elections."

Sensational laughter filled the chamber.

"I reserve my motion to adjourn," said Mr. Shackelford, hurriedly.

The Senate thereupon adjourned until 11:20 o'clock to-day.

TELLS BY THEIR SLEEP

"I can tell by my little ones' sleep when a cold is coming on," said a mother when speaking of the advance symptoms of colds in children. "They toss about, are restless, their breathing is heavy and there are symptoms of night sweats. The next morning I start with Scott's Emulsion. The chances are that in a day or two they are all over it. Their rest is again peaceful and the breathing normal."

Here's a suggestion for all mothers. Scott's Emulsion always has been almost magical in its action when used as the ounce of prevention. Nothing seems to overcome child weakness quite so effectively and quickly as Scott's Emulsion.

SCOTT & BOWNE, 405 Pearl St., New York.

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To create the State convict force and providing guarding, transportation, lodging, feeding, and so forth.

To amend and re-enact section 3057 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by an act approved December 26th, 1904, relating to judicial circuits.

Bills Introduced.

By Senator Campbell: To provide how dispensary may be established or closed in cities not of the first class and towns.

By Senator Turner: To amend and re-enact sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of an act approved March 2, 1898, to authorize the Board of Supervisors of Loudoun county to let to contract the public roads of that county and levy a tax to keep the same in repair.

By Senator Sadler: To authorize the rector and visitors of the University of Virginia to issue new bonds for the purpose of retiring certain bonds now outstanding.

By Senator Lynn: To amend and re-enact an act to create a road board for the county of Fauquier.

By Senator Sadler: To authorize the Board of Supervisors of Northumberland county to establish a public ferry across Little Wittecoke River.

By Senator Sadler: To amend and re-enact section 3562 of the Code in relation to search warrants.

By Senator St. Clair: To amend and re-enact section 3562 of the Code, restricting the running of railroad trains on Sunday.

By Senator Walker: To authorize the Board of Supervisors of Northumberland county to establish a public ferry across Lodge Creek, in said county.

By Senator Sale: To provide for the election of a special justice of the peace in cities containing 30,000 inhabitants or more, to be known as the house of justice.

By Senator Thomas: To require the secretary of the Dental and Medical Examining Board of the State to pay certain funds to the treasurer of the State school funds.

By Senator Thomas: To amend and re-enact section 43 of an act to revise revenue laws of the State, relating to the annual franchise tax.

By Senator Mann: To define what is pure apple cider and the meaning of section 141 of chapter 20 of Acts of 1904.

By Senator Fulton: To repeal an act approved February 28th, to provide for the working and keeping in order the public roads in Clarke county.

By Senator Mann: To punish guarantors of older other than pure ciders.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

Speaker Cardwell convened the House at noon, and Rev. Dr. J. Power Smith, of the Presbyterian Church, offered prayer.

Mr. Curlett moved to discharge the Committee of Justice from the further consideration of a bill increasing the compensation of justices of the peace, but for the moment there was no action on the subject.

Mr. Rew offered a resolution providing that after next Wednesday, 28th, no bill introduced by any member of the House shall be passed upon by the other House of the General Assembly. There was a good deal of discussion over the matter, and the resolution was finally amended by fixing the day on March 1st instead of March 28th. It then passed by a vote of 28 to 10, and the amendment was adopted and the resolution as amended was rejected.

Nearly an hour was consumed in the consideration of the resolution. The motion of Mr. Curlett to discharge the Committee of Justice from the consideration of the bill was rejected. Mr. Jennings offered a resolution thanking the President, Congress and Representative Lamb for the return of the Confederate flag to the State, and it was agreed to.

The Torrens system bill, fixed as a special order for 2:30 P. M. was taken up, and the patron, Mr. Massie, offered some amendments, most of which were consequential.

Mr. Withers Opens.

Mr. Withers, of Nansemond, was the first speaker for the measure, and his effort was at once brilliant and powerful. He spoke with his accustomed ease and fluency, and at times rose to flights of oratory which provoked applause on the floor. He contended that to enact the bill would be to take a long step in the line of progress, and in an able and eloquent manner he pointed out the necessity as he saw it for a change in the method of registering land in the State. He contended that the uncertainty of titles in Virginia and the robbery of lands of much of their value, and urged that the present method of transfer is cumbersome, troublesome and in the end uncertain. Having pointed out the defects and inconveniences of the present sys-

tem, Mr. Withers closed with a brief review of the Torrens measure and earnestly besought the House to adopt it.

Mr. Royall followed in opposition, and he made a strong speech from his viewpoint. He was vigorous in his opening remarks, and several times became involved in brief colloquies with the patron, Mr. Massie. Mr. Royall then read a prepared argument in opposition to the passage of the measure.

As to Henrico.

Mr. Throckmorton favored the bill in a brief speech, and he declared that he was but voicing the sentiment of his people.

Mr. Puller earnestly opposed the bill and declared that there was not only no demand for its passage, but he believed it was a dangerous measure. He said the issue was not made in his campaign, and Mr. Massie asked him if he had not in public speeches said he would vote for the bill.

"I say most emphatically," replied Mr. Puller, "that I did not."

"I only wanted to get you on record," rejoined Mr. Massie.

Mr. Puller said he was sorry his opposition to the bill was likely to incur the great fees not in acquiring and hoarding great learning, but even in establishing a name above reproach and in maintaining a character of spotless integrity. The horizon must be widened beyond the realm of self. It is not enough that the best legal details, Virginia have at the disposal of the people, though they be of "great pith and moment." It is not enough that the highest forensic talents be devoted to the advancement of great corporate industries, though they promote material prosperity. For the members of the bar not only owe something to the majesty and perfection of the law, but there must be in their case, as in the case of every good citizen, something of personal sacrifice and of disinterested personal service for the common weal.

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